	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	09/672,957	EWING, DAVID
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	X L Bautista	2179	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *document filed on 8/5/04*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-26*.

3. ☒ The drawings filed on *28 January 2001* are accepted by the Examiner.

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

     a)☐ All   b)☐ Some*   c)☐ None   of the:

         1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

         2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

         3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

     * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

     (a)☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

         1)☐ hereto or 2)☒ to Paper No./Mail Date *1/7/04*.

     (b)☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of

         Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .
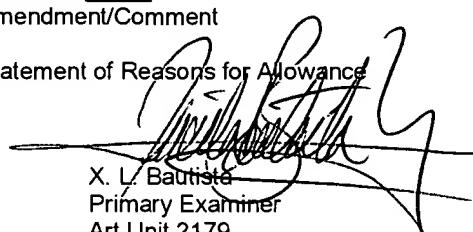
X. L. Bautista
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2179

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1.   Claims 1-26 are allowed.

2.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claims 1-26 have carefully considered. Prior art of record fails to

teach the combination of claimed elements including displaying a plurality of

cascaded windows; selecting an object; receiving indication of dragging the selected

object; monitoring the current location of the object; starting a timer if the object is

within a visible portion of an inactive window; and displaying the inactive window on

a first display layer, if the object is held within a visible portion of the inactive

window until the timer is expired.

David Chester Gibson (EP 0514307) discloses a method for manipulating

selectable icons. Objects are displayed in a plurality of viewports that are partially

overlapped. The movement between viewports triggers an automatic rearranging of

the order in which the viewports are overlapped, causing the second of the plurality

of viewports to be raised to a topmost position relative to all other viewports. Gibson

fails to teach or suggest a timer is started when the dragged object is within a visible

portion of a window, and displaying the window on the topmost position if the object

is held within a visible portion of the window until the timer expires.

Conrad et al (US 6,642,944) discloses a window management mechanism that allows users to open a window as a drawer. Users are also allowed to open the drawers during a drag. Users may drag an object or the cursor into the drawer window that is desired to be opened. When the cursor touches the bottom of the screen or an area within a threshold of the bottom of the screen, the drawer window slides open a notch at a time, and the drawer slides open as long as the user pushes against the bottom or remains in the threshold region. Conrad teaches a timer logic for detecting a pause of the cursor over a particular identifier in the interface and a threshold parameter which indicates the distance from the perimeter of the desktop within which a cursor movement will result in opening of the drawer. Conrad fails to teach or suggest that the timer is started when a dragged object is within a visible portion of an inactive window and displaying the inactive window on the topmost position if the object is held within a visible portion of the inactive window until the timer expires.

McFarland (US 6,072,488) discloses a method for returning window to an original location. The order of the open windows can be established. A location indicator is also associated with each open window to keep track of its current status (sprung or unsprung). When a folder window is unsprung to a topmost position, a list changes to reflect the springing of the folder window by changing the location

indicator value to a Boolean value associated with a sprung, rather than an original

position. When the user ends the drag operation, and assuming that the window is

to be closed, the folder window will be returned to its original position among the

cascaded, open windows. McFarland fails to teach or suggest starting a timer if the

dragged object is within a visible portion of an inactive window, and displaying the

inactive window on the first display layer if the object is held within a visible portion

of the inactive window until the timer is expired.

Conclusion

3.   Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later

than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on

Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from

the examiner should be directed to X L Bautista whose telephone number is (571)

272-4132. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:00AM-

6:00PM.

        If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the

examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on (7571) 272-4136. The

fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is
assigned is 703-872-9306.

5.   Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the
Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for
published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.
Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR
only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov.
Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the
Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).
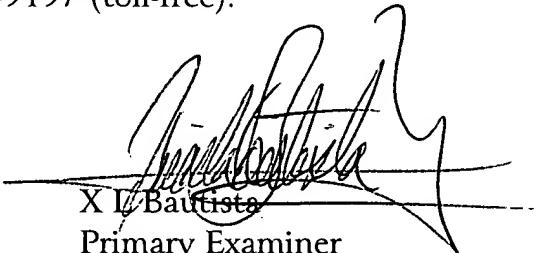
X L Bautista
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2179

xlb
March 2, 2005